A QUALITY ROMANCE PUBLICATION
10c
ANC
Exotic
ROMANCES
DECEMBER
No. 24
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
WELL! MY LITTLE SISTER HAD HER NERVE...KEEPING SOMEONE AS HANDSOME AS YOU A SECRET!
See-
I WAS AFRAID OF LOSING HIM
NO! OH, CORA... DON'T TAKE HIM AWAY FROM ME! HE'S EVERYTHING TO ME!
MY FOOLISH PRIDE
TOO MANY SWEETHEARTS
HOMELESS HEART

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EXOTIC ROMANCES, December, 1955, No. 24. Published monthly except June and August by Comic Magazines, Sparta, Illinois. Executive Offices, 578 Summer Street, Stamford, Conn. Everett M. Arnold, General Manager. Alfred Grenet, Editor. Richard Arnold, Associtae Editor. Yearly subscription (10 issues) $1.50. Foreign $1.70. Entered as Second-Class Matter at the Post Office at Sparta, Illinois, under the Act of March 3, 1879. The characters and events pictured herein are entirely fictitious. The Publisher accepts no responsibility for unsolicited material. Editorial and Advertising Offices, 347 Madison Avenue, New York 17, N. Y.

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PRIDE! THAT WORD WAS LIKE A BURNING SYMBOL TO ME! PRIDE IN MY JOB AS TELLER AT THE CRENSHAW BANK! PRIDE IN THE ABILITY TO SUPPORT MY WIDOWED MOTHER AND TWO YOUNGER BROTHERS! PRIDE IN THE WAY MEN LIKE REID HOLLIS LOOKED AT ME WHEN I PASSED BY! AND YET I WAS TO LEARN A BITTER, HEART-RENDING LESSON! FOR WHEN I LOST THE LOVE MY EAGER HEART HAD WANTED SO DESPERATELY, I LEARNED THAT THERE WERE MORE IMPORTANT THINGS IN LIFE THAN

My Foolish Pride

I WAS CRAZY ABOUT REID HOLLIS AND I WONDERED IF HE'D EVER NOTICE ME...
REID HOLLIS! TO ME, AS TO EVERY GIRL IN CRENSHAW, THE VERY NAME WAS MAGIC!
YOU'D THINK HE'D BE SNOOTY, WOULDN'T YOU, GRACE? HIS FAMILY PRACTICALLY OWNS THE BANK!
AND NOBODY'S GOT THE RIGHT TO BE THAT HANDSOME!
OH-OH! HE'S COMING OUR WAY AND IT'S A CINCH HE DOESN'T WANT TO TALK TO ME! TURN ON THAT FLASHY SMILE OF YOURS, GRACE... THAT ALWAYS GETS 'EM!
HA-HA! YOU OVERRATE ME, VALERIE! HE'S PROBABLY FOUND A MISTAKE IN MY ACCOUNTS!
AT LAST! I'VE BEEN HOVERING OUTSIDE YOUR CAGE FOR HALF AN HOUR, HOPING TO FIND YOU ALONE!
ALONE, MR. HOLLIS?
WELL, I DON'T USUALLY CARE FOR AN AUDIENCE WHEN I ASK A GIRL TO HAVE DINNER WITH ME! IT MIGHT BE EMBARRASSING IF SHE SAID NO!
YOU... YOU'RE ASKING ME TO...? OH, NO!
TOMORROW EVENING, IF YOU DON'T HAVE OTHER PLANS! WE COULD DRIVE OUT TO PAXTON! CAN'T GET ANY DECENT FOOD IN A SMALL TOWN LIKE THIS!
WHY, I'D... I'D LOVE TO, MR. HOLLIS! IT'S JUST THAT... WELL, I'M SURPRISED, THAT'S ALL!
SURPRISED WAS A MILD WORD FOR IT! I WAS LIKE SOMEONE UNDER AN ANAESTHETIC FOR THE REST OF THAT DAY!
YOO HOO! COME ON DOWN OFF THAT CLOUD, MISS WESTON! IT'S CLOSING TIME!
REID HOLLIS ASKED ME TO HAVE DINNER WITH HIM! I'M GOING OUT ON A DATE WITH REID HOLLIS!
TELLER

PRAISE OF THAT KIND WAS MUSIC TO MY EARS! I WAS INTENSELY PROUD OF THE WAY I HAD KEPT THE FAMILY TOGETHER AFTER DAD DIED! SO PROUD THAT I MADE SURE NOBODY GOT A CHANCE TO FEEL SORRY FOR US!

BUT REID DIDN'T LET ME DWELL TOO LONG ON MY ABILITIES AS A MANAGER! HE LIKED TO HAVE FUN, AND HIS WARM, CAREFREE PERSONALITY MADE ME FORGET THAT HE WAS THE MR. HOLLIS!
WITH ALL YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES, I SEE YOU MANAGED TO LEARN TO DANCE LIKE AN ANGEL!
I'M A LITTLE RUSTY! THERE HASN'T BEEN MUCH TIME FOR FUN LATELY!
WE'RE GOING TO FIND TIME, GRACE! YOU DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I'VE BEEN TRYING TO GET UP NERVE ENOUGH TO ASK FOR THIS DATE! NOW THAT I'VE BROKEN THE ICE, YOU'LL HAVE A ROUGH TIME GETTING RID OF ME!
I'M NOT GOING TO TRY, REID!
AND LATER!
WASN'T IT SILLY TO WASTE SO MANY YEARS BEING STRANGERS WHEN WE COULD HAVE BEEN FRIENDS, GRACE?
I DON'T THINK OF YOU AS A STRANGER ANYMORE, REID! SOMEHOW, I FEEL AS THOUGH WE'D BEEN GOING OUT TOGETHER THIS WAY ALL OUR LIVES!
I'M GLAD YOU FEEL THAT WAY, SWEET! BECAUSE, AS AN OLD FRIEND, I'VE GOT THE RIGHT TO DO... THIS!
REID! OH, REID!
IN EVERY LIFETIME THERE IS ONE KISS THAT OPENS THE DOORWAY TO A NEW AND THRILLING LIFE! THAT MOMENT CAME TO ME AS REID'S LIPS PRESSED CLOSE TO MINE!
AND THE WEEKS THAT FOLLOWED WERE AS WONDERFUL AS THAT KISS!
GEE, YOU'RE GOIN' OUT AGAIN, AREN'T YOU, GRACE? MR. HOLLIS REALLY LIKES YOU, I BETCHA!
YOU RASCAL, BILLY! SUPPOSE HE DOES?
YOU'RE SURE IT'S ALL RIGHT FOR ME TO LEAVE, MOM? YOU HAVEN'T BEEN LOOKING TOO WELL!
FIDDLESTICKS! I'VE GOT THE BOYS TO LOOK AFTER ME! YOU RUN ALONG AND HAVE A GOOD TIME!

MY HEART WAS LIGHT AS I LEFT TO KEEP MY DATE WITH REID THAT NIGHT! BUT, RETURNING HOME I WAS GREETED BY A SHOCK THAT LEFT ME WEAK AND PANIC-STRICKEN!
MICHAEL! WHAT ARE YOU DOING UP AT THIS HOUR?
MOM'S SICK! I RAN ALL THE WAY TO DOC BRENNAN'S HOUSE! HE'S IN THERE WITH HER!
IT'S A RATHER SEVERE STROKE, MISS WESTON! YOUR MOTHER WILL NEED FULL-TIME CARE FOR AT LEAST A YEAR!
BUT WE... WE COULDN'T AFFORD A NURSE! NOT ON MY SALARY!
I THINK WE CAN ARRANGE WITH THE WELFARE SERVICE TO SEND HER TO A HOSPITAL! AND IT WON'T COST YOU A PENNY!
NO, THANK YOU, DOCTOR! I'VE NEVER ASKED FOR CHARITY BEFORE AND I'M NOT GOING TO DO IT NOW! I'LL QUIT MY JOB AND TAKE CARE OF MOM MYSELF!
THERE IT WAS AGAIN...THAT FIERCE, STUBBORN PRIDE! IT CAME UP AGAIN THE NEXT DAY!
IF I TELL REID THE TRUTH, HE'LL FEEL SORRY FOR ME! HE'LL WANT TO HELP! I'VE GOT TO QUIT SEEING HIM OR HE'LL KNOW THE TRUTH!
REID HOLL VICE PRESID
AND SO...
I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT, GRACE! WHERE HAVE YOU FOUND A BETTER JOB? AND HOW COME YOU DIDN'T MENTION THIS LAST NIGHT?
THOSE ARE ...PERSONAL QUESTIONS, REID! PLEASE TELL YOUR FATHER I'M SORRY I HAD TO LEAVE ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE!
PERSONAL QUESTIONS! MAYBE MY INTEREST IN YOU IS PERSONAL! GRACE, LET'S GO OUT SOMEWHERE AND TALK THIS OVER!
NO, I...I'M GOING TO BE VERY BUSY FOR...QUITE A WHILE! GOOD-BYE, REID!
I COULDN'T BEAR THE THOUGHT OF REID FINDING OUT THAT MY "WONDERFUL NEW JOB" CONSISTED OF TYPING ENVELOPES FOR A LETTER SERVICE AT NIGHT AND TAKING CARE OF MOM ALL DAY!
GEE, AREN'T YOU GOING TO BED, SIS? YOU GOT UP AT SIX THIS MORNING!
NOT YET, HONEY!
I'LL BE UP HALF THE NIGHT TYPING THESE! BUT I WON'T HAVE TO ASK ANYONE FOR HELP...
AND AT LEAST REID WON'T KNOW HOW DESPERATE WE ARE!

MY CURT, UNFRIENDLY ATTITUDE TOWARD REID HAD DONE THE TRICK! I DIDN'T SEE OR HEAR FROM HIM AFTER I LEFT THE BANK! BUT MY HEART COULD NOT FORGET THE HAPPY MOMENTS WE HAD SHARED!
IT WAS TOO WONDERFUL TO LAST! I'D DIE OF SHAME IF REID KNEW WHAT A ROUGH TIME WE'RE HAVING... AND OFFERED TO HELP!
WORK! BILLS! WORRIES! THEY ALMOST OVERSHADOWED MY HEARTACHES!
DO YOU THINK I CAN GET THAT FOOTBALL, HUH, GRACE?
THESE VITAMINS ARE EXPENSIVE, BUT THEY'LL HELP BUILD UP YOUR MOTHER'S RESISTANCE!
YOU STAYED UP ALL NIGHT AGAIN, TYPING! OH, GRACE... CHILD!
YOUR RENT IS DUE ON THE FIRST, MISS WESTON, NOT THE TWENTIETH!
AND THEN ONE DAY, WHEN MY STRUGGLE BECAME ALMOST UNBEARABLE!
THERE'S A LADY HERE THAT WANTS TO SEE YOU, GRACE!
THANK YOU, MICHAEL!
IF IT'S ANOTHER BILL COLLECTOR I'LL GIVE UP!
ER... HOW DO YOU DO! I'M GRACE WESTON! DID YOU WANT TO SEE ME?
JUST FOR A MOMENT, MY DEAR! THE CRENSHAW WOMAN'S CLUB HEARD ABOUT YOUR MOTHER'S ILLNESS, DEAR, AND WE ALWAYS TRY TO HELP OUT WHEN ONE OF OUR NEIGHBORS HAS BEEN UNFORTUNATE!
BREAD
WE KNOW IT MUST BE QUITE A STRAIN FOR YOU, SO... WE HOPE YOU'LL ACCEPT A FEW LITTLE GIFTS THAT MAY HELP OUT!
LOOK, GRACE! THERE'S TWO BIG BOXES OF GROCERIES ON THE PORCH AND A BOX OF NEW PANTS AND T-SHIRTS! GOSH!
AND LOOK, MIKEY! A FOOTBALL! JUST WHAT YOU WANTED!
I'LL BE RUNNING ALONG NOW! I HOPE YOUR MOTHER IS BETTER SOON... AND DO CALL ON THE CLUB IF THERE'S ANYTHING WE CAN DO! I'M THE WELFARE CHAIRMAN; EMILY HOLLIS!

EMILY HOLLIS! THE NAME STRUCK AT ME LIKE A DAGGER! REID'S MOTHER HAD COME TO FEEL SORRY FOR ME... TO BRING US GROCERIES...TO GIVE MICHAEL THAT PRECIOUS FOOTBALL I WANTED TO BUY FOR HIM!
DON'T LEAVE MRS. HOLLIS! NOT YET!
THERE'S SOMETHING I CAN DO?
YES! YES, GET WHOEVER CARRIED THESE BOXES INTO THIS ROOM TO CARRY THEM OUT! WE DON'T NEED CHARITY OR SYMPATHY FROM THE TOWN'S MOST PROMINENT FAMILY OR ANYONE ELSE!
IF...THAT'S WHAT YOU LIKE, OF COURSE, MY DEAR! I'LL SEND A MAN BACK! AND GOOD LUCK TO YOU!

GEE...YOU MEAN...I CAN'T KEEP THE FOOTBALL?
NO! NO, YOU CAN'T! GOOD HEAVENS, MICHAEL, HAVEN'T YOU ANY PRIDE? :SOB: CAN'T YOU SEE THEY'RE TREATING US LIKE POOR TRASH!
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE THAT, CHILD! I'M SURE MRS. HOLLIS MEANT WELL!
OH, MOM, DON'T YOU TURN AGAINST ME, TOO! :SOB: REID PROBABLY SENT HER WITH THAT STORY ABOUT THE WOMAN'S CLUB! :SOB: AND HE KNOWS HOW PROUD I'VE ALWAYS BEEN!
SOMEHOW, I STRUGGLED THROUGH THOSE BITTER MONTHS, BUT EVEN AFTER MOM HAD RECOVERED ENOUGH SO THAT I COULD TAKE A JOB, THE STINGING HUMILIATION REMAINED WITH ME!
SAY, DIDN'T YOU USED TO WORK OVER AT THE BANK? HOW COME YOU TAKE A JOB IN A SANDWICH SHOP?
MAYBE I'M NOT INTERESTED IN WORKING FOR THE MOST PROMINENT FAMILY IN CRENSHAW!

AT LEAST I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT RUNNING INTO REID HERE! AND IT'S PRETTY OBVIOUS THAT HE DOESN'T CARE TO SEE ME...ESPECIALLY AFTER THE WAY I TALKED TO HIS MOTHER!
NO, IT WASN'T LIKELY THAT I WOULD MEET REID HOLLIS AT THE SANDWICH SHOP, OR THAT HE WOULD COME TO CALL ON ME! BUT YOU CAN'T AVOID SOMEONE FOR LONG IN A SMALL TOWN! AND ONE DAY...
I'LL HAVE A CUP OF COFFEE, PLEASE, AND... GRACE!
H-HELLO, REID! IT'S... NICE TO SEE YOU AGAIN!

WAS IT CURIOSITY OR WAS IT MY OVERPOWERING DESIRE TO BE WITH REID AGAIN... TO HEAR HIS VOICE AND FEEL THE TOUCH OF HIS HAND? WHATEVER THE REASON, I DROVE HOME WITH HIM THAT EVENING!

SOON, MRS. HOLLIS AND I WERE DISCUSSING ONE OF THE TOWN'S NEEDY FAMILIES, AND, EAGER TO HELP, I WAS REALIZING THAT SOMETIMES ITS A GREATER VIRTUE TO RECEIVE GRACIOUSLY THAN TO GIVE!

AND PERHAPS THE GREATEST LESSON OF ALL WAS LEARNING THAT MATERIAL THINGS DON'T BRING HAPPINESS! WHEN TWO PEOPLE ARE IN LOVE, HAVING EACH OTHER IS ALL THAT MATTERS!

TO BE NOVELIST NEDRA WALES' DAUGHTER, WAS TO BE ENVIED AND CATERED TO! I BASKED IN THE RICH SUNSHINE OF MY MOTHER'S FAME AND FORTUNE — NEDRA'S SUCCESS WAS MINE. BUT THOUGH MY LIFE WAS LUXURIOUS, I WAS LONELY AND DISILLUSIONED — CONVINCED THERE WAS NO ONE WHO WOULD GIVE A PAMPERED PRINCESS A HAVEN FOR HER

Homeless HEART

SO, I FELT NO REGRET WHEN MOTHER SUDDENLY DECIDED TO TAKE A CHATEAU FOR US IN FRANCE, TO GATHER LOCAL COLOR FOR HER NEW NOVEL—

LOVELY...BUT LONELY LOOKING, ISN'T IT, JANE?

IT WON'T BE FOR LONG, MOTHER! JUST WAIT UNTIL THE LOCAL SINGLE BOYS HEAR YOU'RE AROUND!

AND I WAS RIGHT! OUR CHATEAU FILLED UP LIKE GRAND CENTRAL STATION AS SOON AS WORD OF NEDRA WALES' ARRIVAL GOT OUT!

DIFFERENT CHARACTERS BUT SAME OLD FAMILIAR PLOT!

IT'S THE KITCHEN FOR ME IF I DON'T WANT TO BE ANOTHER SELF-STYLED SHAKESPEARES "IN" WITH MOTHER!

A WHILE LATER, I STARTED IN WITH A LOADED TRAY AND...

O-OH!

OOPS!

A THOUSAND PARDONS, MAM'SELLE! I WAS ONLY LOOKING FOR AN EXIT!

DO YOU ALWAYS MAKE SUCH A NOISY ONE?

I DO NOT BLAME YOU FOR BEING ANGRY! COME, I WILL HELP PICK UP THE PIECES AND YOUR EMPLOYER WILL NEVER KNOW THERE HAS BEEN AN ACCIDENT!

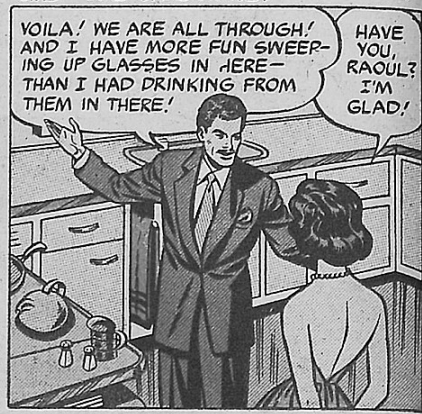
EMPLOYER? HE MUST THINK I WORK HERE!

I-I'M NOT REALLY ONE OF THE HELP.. YOU SEE, THAT IS...

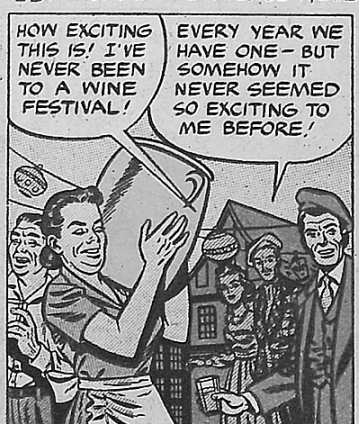
OF COURSE! HOW STUPID OF ME! YOU ARE MADAME WALES' SECRETARY! YOU ARE MORE HELPER THAN HELP, NO?

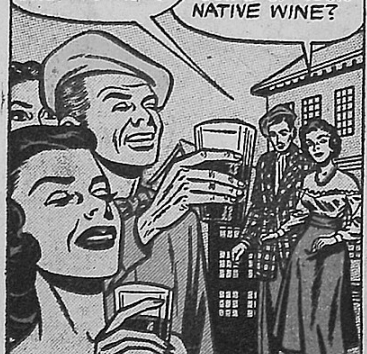
DENIAL CAME RUSHING TO MY LIPS, BUT AS I LOOKED INTO RAOUL CRAIS' EYES AND THRILLED TO THE TOUCH OF HIS HAND, I KNEW I WANTED TO BE TREATED AS A WOMAN--APART FROM NEDRA WALES'!

MY NEW IDENTITY MADE ME FEEL LIGHT-HEADED AND WARM - LIKE A DIFFERENT GIRL - LIKE JANE WHITE!

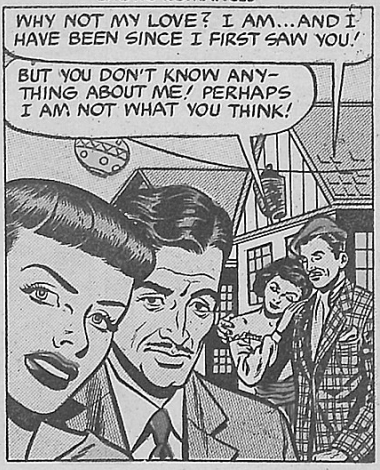


NEXT DAY IN THE VILLAGE SQUARE..

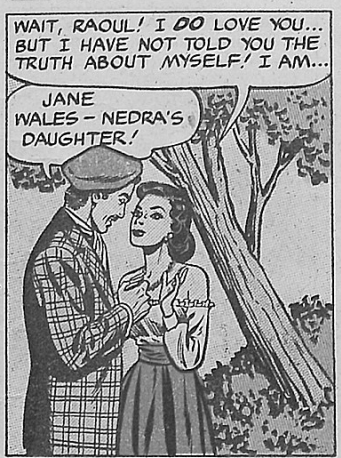




SEE! YOUR KISS WAS SWEET — YOU ARE IN LOVE!
I C-CAN'T BE!


WHY NOT MY LOVE? I AM...AND I HAVE BEEN SINCE I FIRST SAW YOU!
BUT YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT ME! PERHAPS I AM NOT WHAT YOU THINK!

I THINK THAT I LOVE YOU... AND THAT IS ALL THAT MATTERS!
ALL THAT MATTERS? I WONDER IF YOU'D FEEL THE SAME IF YOU KNEW I'D LIED TO YOU, MY DARLING?


WAIT, RAOUL! I DO LOVE YOU... BUT I HAVE NOT TOLD YOU THE TRUTH ABOUT MYSELF! I AM...
JANE WALES — NEDRA'S DAUGHTER!

SHOCK SHOT THROUGH ME LIKE A STAB OF PAIN — AND I WINCED AT THE SOUND OF RAOUL'S NEXT WORDS...
YES, I KNEW WHO YOU WERE, BUT —
YOU KNEW? YET YOU LET ME GO ON MAKING A FOOL OF MYSELF?

LISTEN, MY DARLING! I HAD TO LET YOU THINK I BELIEVED YOUR PLAY-ACTING! I WAS ONLY —
OF COURSE! IT ALL MAKES SENSE NOW! THIS WAS THE BIG BUILDUP TO A FAVOR! JUST WHAT LITERARY MASTERPIECE OF YOURS WAS I TO GET NEDRA TO READ?

JANE, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND!
MAYBE I DO — TOO WELL!

THE HAPPY WINE OF OUR KISS WAS SUDDENLY SOUR ON MY LIPS — AND IN MISERY, I TURNED AND RAN!

ONE OF NEDRA'S SOIREES WAS IN FULL SWING WHEN I RETURNED HOME—AND MUCH TO HER SURPRISE, I ATTACHED MYSELF TO ONE OF THE GUESTS—DESPERATELY TRYING TO SOOTHE MY ACHING HEART!
HOME EARLY, AREN'T YOU, JANIE?
YES... I THOUGHT I'D TAKE IN THE WINE FESTIVAL, BUT IT WAS JUST A LITTLE TOO CORNY FOR ME! RIGHT, ANDRE?
MAIS OUI! PEASANT CELEBRATIONS ARE NOT FOR MAM'SELLE WALES!
SEE, MOTHER? HE APPRECIATES ME! NOTHING BUT THE BEST FOR NEDRA WALES' LITTLE GIRL!
BUT, OF COURSE! IF YOU WILL PERMIT ME, I WOULD LIKE TO SHOW YOU THE BEST THAT ST. GERMAINE HAS TO OFFER TOMORROW NIGHT!
WHY NOT?
IMPULSIVELY I THREW MYSELF HEADLONG INTO A ROMANCE WITH ANDRE, ACCEPTING HIS ATTENTION AS BALM FOR MY INJURED PRIDE!
TO A WONDERFUL EVENING, MA CHERIE!.. AND MANY OTHERS TO FOLLOW!
IT WAS EASY TO PRETEND THIS WAS WHAT I WANTED! ANDRE WAS GAY, CHARMING—AND IF HE FLATTERED ME FOR A PURPOSE, THEN AT LEAST HE WAS HONEST, I THOUGHT!
I HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR SOMEONE LIKE YOU FOR A LONG TIME, SWEET ONE! TELL ME YOU ARE BEGINNING TO LOVE ME, TOO!
I-I GUESS SO, ANDRE!
SO A FEW WEEKS LATER...
CHERIE, I HAVE A SURPRISE! MY BOOK IS FINISHED! AS SOON AS NEDRA RECOMMENDS IT TO HER PUBLISHER, WE WILL ANNOUNCE OUR ENGAGEMENT!
NEXT DAY—
I MAY AS WELL TELL YOU, MOTHER, THAT ANDRE AND I PLAN TO BE MARRIED!
JANIE, BABY! I HOPED YOU WOULD SEE THE LIGHT BEFORE IT CAME TO THIS!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT! ANDRE LOVES ME AND WANTS TO MARRY ME!
OH, HE WANTS TO MARRY YOU ALL RIGHT—BUT WHAT HE LOVES IS THE FACT THAT YOU ARE NEDRA WALES' DAUGHTER!

SUPPOSE YOU'RE RIGHT? IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE TO ME!
REALLY? THEN I'VE MISJUDGED YOU! ANY INTELLIGENT WOMAN WANTS TO BE LOVED FOR HERSELF ALONE!

THAT MAY SOUND GOOD IN PROSE BUT IT DOESN'T WORK THAT WAY IN REAL LIFE!
HOW WOULD YOU KNOW? YOU WOULDN'T GIVE THE ONLY MAN WHO COULD SHOW YOU A CHANCE, THE MINUTE HE TREATED YOU LIKE A NORMAL WOMAN – YOU WALKED OUT ON HIM!

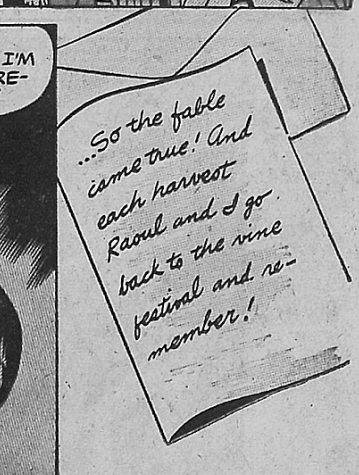
STUNNED, I LISTENED TO THE CONTEMPTUOUS VOICE OF MY MOTHER –
YES – RAOUL CRAIS! YOU DIDN'T KNOW THAT WHEN HE SAW YOU, IT WAS HE CAME TO ME AND ASKED TO BE INTRODUCED TO YOU!
BUT IF HE KNEW WHO I WAS, WHY DID HE PRETEND TO MISTAKE ME FOR YOUR SECRETARY?

BECAUSE, YOU LITTLE NINNY, I KNEW HOW YOU FELT ABOUT ALL MY VISITORS – AND I WARNED HIM HE'D NEVER STAND A CHANCE IF HE TOLD THE TRUTH!
OH, MOTHER, WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME! NOW I'VE LOST HIM!

SOMEHOW, I DOUBT THAT! ANYONE WHO HAS BEEN TRYING THAT HARD TO SEE YOU ISN'T EASILY DISCOURAGED! MATTER OF FACT, HE'S WAITING IN THE GARDEN TO ASK MY ADVICE ABOUT THIS MIXUP!
I'LL GIVE HIM HIS ANSWER, MOTHER! AND BLESS YOU!

RAOUL, DARLING, MOTHER HAS EXPLAINED EVERYTHING! CAN YOU EVER FORGIVE ME?
FORGIVE YOU? I WILL HAVE TO! THERE'S NO ROOM IN MY HEART FOR ANYTHING BUT LOVE!

UM! YOUR LIPS ARE SWEET!
OF COURSE THEY ARE! I'M IN LOVE – REMEMBER?


...So the fable came true! And each harvest Raoul and I go back to the vine festival and remember!

I TREATED ROMANCE TOO LIGHTLY IN DATING TOO MANY BOYS AND WANTING THEM ALL TO ADORE ME! HOW FOOLISH AND IMMATURE I WAS IN THINKING I COULD EVER WIN TRUE LOVE WHEN I HAD---

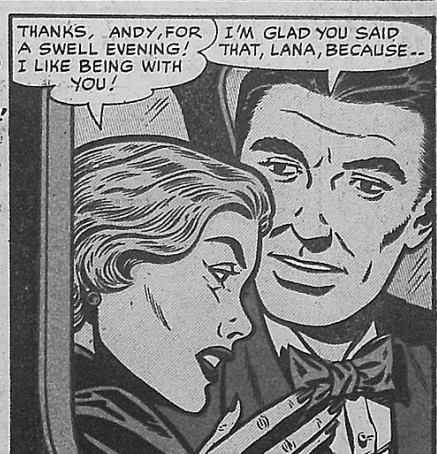
TOO MANY SWEETHEARTS

I HOPED ANDY WOULD ASK ME FOR A DATE---

AND MY WISHES WERE SOON GRANTED, FOR A FEW DAYS LATER---

I ENJOYED ANDY'S COMPANY IMMENSELY! I HOPED HE LIKED ME AND WE'D SEE A LOT OF EACH OTHER---

AND THAT NIGHT, AS WE SAT IN THE CAR IN FRONT OF MY HOUSE---



MY PREDICTION PROVED TO BE TRUE! WE WENT STEADY FOR SEVERAL MONTHS AND I WAS REALLY BEGINNING TO BE SERIOUS ABOUT HIM WHEN---

I SAW ANDY OFF AT THE STATION WHEN HE LEFT! AND THAT WAS OUR LAST KISS!

I WAS RIGHT, I MISSED ANDY DREADFULLY AT FIRST! MANY LONESOME EVENINGS SOON GAVE WAY TO DISPAIR AND BROODING UNTIL ONE NIGHT I DECIDED TO GO OUT ON A DATE!

I WAS SO CONFUSED BY THAT KISS! I WONDERED COULD I HAVE FALLEN FOR HAL NOW AND FORGOTTEN ANDY SO FAST?

ONE NIGHT---

THE RESORT I HAD CHOSEN FOR MY VACATION SOUNDED FINE FROM THE FOLDERS! BUT THE FIRST DAY PROVED VERY DULL!

MY HEART SKIPPED A COUPLE OF BEATS AS I LOOKED AT THE HANDSOME STRANGER BEFORE ME!

So JIM MARLOWE MADE MY VACATION A HAPPY ONE! WE SPENT MANY ENJOYABLE HOURS TOGETHER!

WE SPENT TWO WEEKS THERE TOGETHER! AND JIM WAS A GREAT GUY! I THOUGHT I WAS IN LOVE WITH ANDY, THEN WITH HAL NOW I WASN'T SO SURE THAT I LOVED EITHER ONE!

A FEW DAYS LATER I WAS BACK HOME!
ANDY AND JIM WROTE OFTEN BUT I WAS DATING HAL! THEN ONE NIGHT...
ANDY! YOU... YOU MEAN YOU'RE IN TOWN?
SURE, HONEY! I'M DYING TO SEE YOU! I'LL BE RIGHT OVER!
WHO'S ANDY?
AN OLD BOY FRIEND! I SHOULD HAVE TOLD YOU ABOUT HIM BEFORE BUT...
R-RING
LANA, I DECIDED TO SURPRISE YOU!
JIM!
I COULDN'T WAIT ANY LONGER! I CAME HERE TO MARRY YOU AND TAKE YOU BACK TO TEXAS!
MARRY HER? SHE'S GOING TO MARRY ME!
HOW COULD I EXPLAIN? I WAS DOING MY BEST WHEN ANDY RUSHED INTO THE ROOM! I CALL IT COINCIDENCE THAT THEY ALL CAME AT ONCE BUT IT WAS WHAT I DESERVED!
LANA, DARLING... HEY, WHAT IS THIS? A CONVENTION?
I GUESS SO, IN A WAY! I DIDN'T WANT TO HURT ANY OF YOU BUT NOW I CAN'T HELP IT! WHAT SHALL WE DO?
I'M LEAVING! I THOUGHT YOU WERE ON THE LEVEL!
THAT GOES FOR ME TOO, SWEETHEART! ALL THE TIME I FIGURED IT WAS JUST US! I WON'T BE A SUCKER THE NEXT TIME!
I'VE BEEN SUCH A FOOL! I SHOULD HAVE BEEN HAPPY TO HAVE THE LOVE OF ANY ONE OF THEM! NOW I HAVE NONE!
But I've learned my lesson. Now I know a girl can't pass her love around and expect to get any in return. I'll be serious about my next sweetheart — And wiser, too!

PIMPLES

dry up in 3 days

OR YOUR MONEY BACK!

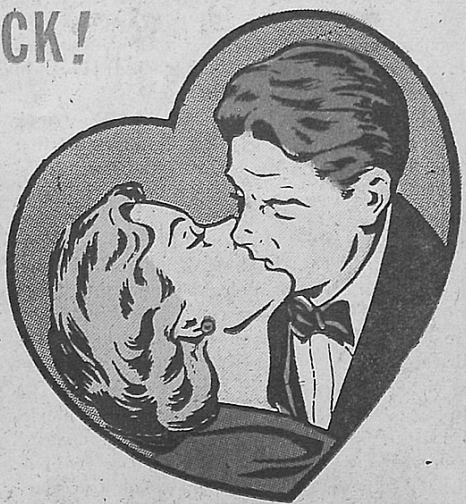
At last science has discovered a fast, harmless way to clear your skin of those horrible pimples, blackheads and acne spots. This is an entirely new, greaseless cream that contains powerful A and D vitamins. It works fast by drying out the superfluous skin oils pimples feed on...at the same time counteracts by antiseptic action, the growth of bacteria that cause and spread ugly skin blemishes.

IMPROVE YOUR APPEARANCE WITH FIRST APPLICATION

You look better the minute you apply wonder-working CLEAR-X, because its amazing skin color hides the blemishes while its medicinal action gets to work clearing them up fast. You don't risk a penny. Get CLEAR-X by sending in the coupon now, use it for 3 days, and if your skin troubles are not definitely improved, you pay nothing.

READER'S DIGEST

reports amazing results from the CLEAR-X type of treatment. Experiments by a great medical college on 100 men, women and young people showed improvements in every case.



LOVE CAN BE YOURS AGAIN!

You can't blame him (or her) for not wanting to kiss you if your skin is oily, defaced with ugly pimples, blackheads and acne spots. Give yourself a break! CLEAR-X will clear your skin like magic!

FREE IF YOU ACT NOW!

A $3.00 jar of CLEAR-X medicated soap to help CLEAR-X work even faster with double action. That's a $6.00 value for just $2.98.

MAIL COUPON NOW and be happy

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270 Park Avenue, New York, N. Y.

Send me at once the marvelous new CLEAR-X formulation on your money-back guarantee.

☐ I enclose $2.98. Send postpaid.
☐ Send C.O.D., I'll pay postman $2.98 plus C.O.D. charges.

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Foreign and APO's—No COD's

We Belong Together

When I met Tony Starr at the office party, I thought of him only as a pleasant, good looking older man. I was only eighteen, and a man of thirty-two seemed to be almost of another generation. Tony took me home that night and at my door he asked me for a date the following Saturday night. "Gosh, I don't know . . ." I hedged, wondering what my friends would say if they saw me with someone so much older. "Really Isabel," he laughed, "I'm not exactly ancient, you know." I joined in his laughter and agreed to the date.

We had a perfectly grand evening. Tony took me skating at the local ice rink. It was there that I ran into Bill O'Brien. "Out with your uncle, Isabel?" he chided, as he swept by us. I looked quickly at Tony to see if his feelings were hurt. "Bill's just a crazy kid I knew at school," I explained hastily. "Think nothing of it," replied Tony. Moments later, he was doing some mighty fancy skating in the middle of the rink. When he finished, there was applause from all around, including Bill O'Brien, who looked pretty sheepish when our eyes met.

Bill called me the next day. "How about a movie, gal. I haven't seen much of you since we graduated." I concealed my surprise at his comment. Actually, Bill hadn't known I was alive in school. I accepted his invitation, however. And from then on, I was pretty rushed between dates with Tony and Bill.

"I can't see why you keep going out with that old man, Isabel," said Bill about three months later. "You can't have much in common when there are so many years between you." "That's where you're wrong, Bill," I replied. "Tony and I have a lot in common." That night when I reached home, I thought over Bill's remark. Tony and I liked the same things; enjoyed the same books, and had a lot of fun together. Added to that, he was kind, and tender and really awfully good looking. "I sound like I'm falling in love with him," I mused to myself as I drifted off to sweet dreams.

A few months later I was forced to a decision. Bill had been talking against Tony almost every time we went out together, but even though Tony knew how much I saw of Bill, he never said a word against him. Then one night, on the way home from a new Broadway play, Tony asked me to marry him. "I know I'm a lot older than you are, darling, but I love you and I think you love me. We can have a wonderful marriage." I was taken by surprise. "I d-don't know, Tony," I replied, not sure of my own reaction. "You'll have to let me think it over." "Sure, honey," he said, softly.

I saw Bill the next night and he noticed my pensiveness. "What's with you, chick?" he quipped. "Did grandpa propose?" I was so stunned at Bill's wild guess that he knew by my expression he'd hit it right. "Don't tell me that old gopher had the gall to ask you to marry him! Why that . . ." "You can stop right there, Bill," I said coolly, sure in my mind for the first time. "I'm tired of your little boy antics and I don't want to hear any more. Please take me home." We had a big argument about that, but sulking, Bill finally drove me home.

I talked it all over with mother that night, telling her how I felt about Tony and how wonderfully we got along together. "But there are fourteen years between us and . . ." Mother interrupted me, "Make up your own mind, Isabel," she said firmly. "Think of your feelings, the qualities you want in a husband, the future you want for your own family, then you'll have the answer." I took her advice, and of course I accepted Tony's proposal. I know the years won't mean a thing, we belong to each other as surely as love exists!

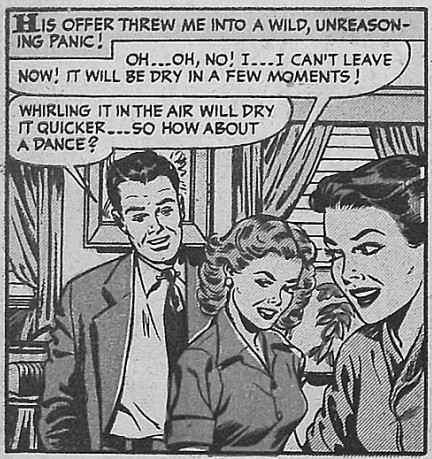
LOOK FOR THIS SEAL ON THE COVER
FOR THE BEST IN A QUALITY ROMANCE PUBLICATION ROMANCE COMICS

Love Confessions
Girls In Love
Love Secrets
Heart Throbs
Wedding Bells
Love Letters
Brides Romances
Exotic Romances

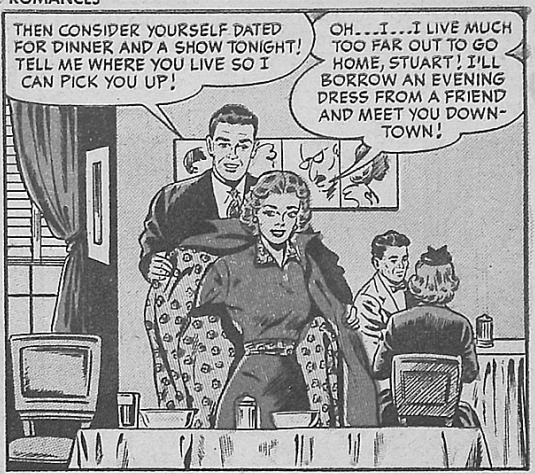
I LOVED STUART PALMER WITH ALL MY HEART AND SOUL---BUT I DROVE HIM OUT OF MY LIFE! IT WAS FEAR THAT HAUNTED ME---NOT SHAME! AND I COULDN'T LET HIM KNOW---

I Was Afraid of Losing Him

MY HEART WAS POUNDING AS I RUSHED TO THE KITCHEN! THIS STRANGE YOUNG MAN WAS THE PRINCE CHARMING OF MY DREAMS! SO I HURRIED BACK!



STUART DID PHONE ME THE NEXT MORNING, TO MAKE A DATE FOR LUNCH!
YOU'RE THE FIRST GIRL I EVER MET THROUGH A COKE BOTTLE...AND THE ONLY ONE I WANT TO KEEP SEEING! ARE YOU GOING STEADY?
NO, I'M NOT, STUART! I...I GUESS I'VE BEEN TOO BUSY FOR DATES LATELY! BUT NOW THE WORK HAS EASED OFF!


THEN CONSIDER YOURSELF DATED FOR DINNER AND A SHOW TONIGHT! TELL ME WHERE YOU LIVE SO I CAN PICK YOU UP!
OH...I...I LIVE MUCH TOO FAR OUT TO GO HOME, STUART! I'LL BORROW AN EVENING DRESS FROM A FRIEND AND MEET YOU DOWN-TOWN!

BEFORE THAT WONDERFUL EVENING WAS OVER I KNEW I WAS IN LOVE WITH STUART PALMER! HE WAS EVERYTHING I'D EVER DREAMED OF!
NOW, WHERE IS HOME SO I CAN DELIVER YOU AT A RESPECTABLE HOUR FOR PEOPLE WHO HAVE TO WORK TOMORROW!
OH...! I...I'M STAYING WITH MY GIRL FRIEND IN TOWN, STUART! AT THE...THE JOYCE APARTMENTS!
TODAY

IT'S BEEN A GLORIOUS EVENING, STUART! I'VE LOVED EVERY MINUTE OF IT!
THEN MAYBE I CAN BE BOLD ENOUGH TO SAY I'VE LOVED EVERY MINUTE OF BEING WITH YOU! I WANT TO KEEP ON DOING IT EVERY DAY!

IN THAT SWEETLY TENDER MOMENT I KNEW THAT WHAT I REALLY LOVED WAS STUART PALMER!

HE LEFT ME AT THE DOOR AND MY TORTURED MIND AND HEART FACED THE TERRIBLE SITUATION I WAS BUILDING UP!
I HOPE NOBODY CATCHES ME HIDING HERE! THEY'LL THINK I'M A CRIMINAL!

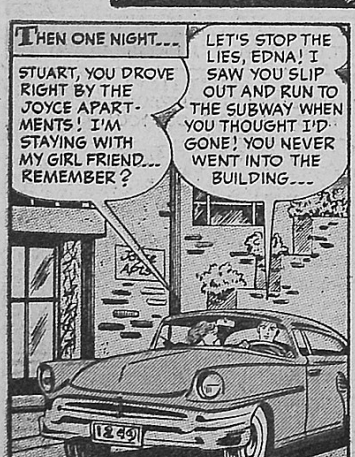
THE MOMENT STUART DROVE OFF, I RAN TO THE SUBWAY TO CATCH MY TRAIN HOME!
OH, STUART, I LOVE YOU SO... BUT I CAN'T EVER LET YOU T-TAKE ME HOME! I WOULDN'T DARE OR I'D LOSE YOU!
TOKENS
STREET
BMT-
SUBW

THE DAYS SPED BY IN A DAZE OF DELIGHT! THERE WERE NIGHTS OF DREAMY DANCING---
EDNA, EDNA, I'M CRAZY ABOUT YOU, DEAR! I LOVE YOU!
DON'T EVER STOP, STUART! PLEASE DON'T EVER STOP LOVING ME!

---MOMENTS OF TENDER MEMORY---

BUT ALWAYS THE CRUEL DECEPTION, THE HEARTACHE AND LIES AT THE END! ALWAYS ANOTHER EXCUSE TO KEEP STUART AWAY FROM MY HOME!
BUT I WANT TO DRIVE YOU HOME, DEAREST!
IT'S MUCH TOO LATE! THEY'RE STUFFY ABOUT CARS IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD AT THIS HOUR OF THE NIGHT!
SALE
SUBWA

I KNEW STUART WAS PUZZLED AND HURT BY MY STRANGE ATTITUDE!
HONEY, YOU'VE NEVER MENTIONED YOUR FAMILY! DO YOU HAVE ONE?
OH, YES! TWO WONDERFUL PARENTS AND--- AND A SISTER, CORA, TWO YEARS OLDER!


THEN ONE NIGHT---
STUART, YOU DROVE RIGHT BY THE JOYCE APARTMENTS! I'M STAYING WITH MY GIRL FRIEND--- REMEMBER?
LET'S STOP THE LIES, EDNA! I SAW YOU SLIP OUT AND RUN TO THE SUBWAY WHEN YOU THOUGHT I'D GONE! YOU NEVER WENT INTO THE BUILDING---
JOYCE APTS

I---I CAN'T EXPLAIN, STUART! PLEASE DON'T PRESS ME! GOODNIGHT, DEAR!
NOT GOODNIGHT THIS TIME! GOODBYE! I LOVE YOU, EDNA, BUT I'M THROUGH!

IT FIGURES ONLY ONE WAY! EITHER YOU'RE ASHAMED TO SHOW ME TO YOUR PARENTS, OR ASHAMED TO HAVE ME MEET THEM! I WANT A REAL SWEETHEART, NOT A SELFISH SNOB!
OH, NO! NO! YOU CAN'T THINK THAT!

YOU'VE GIVEN ME NO, CHOICE! GOODBYE, EDNA!
OH, STUART! WAIT! I'LL EXPL.. OH, HE'S GONE FOREVER!

EDNA, HONEY, WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S WRONG?
N-NOTHING! SOB: JUST L-LET ME ALONE!

WHAT'S UP, SIS? I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU DO THIS BEFORE!
G-GO AWAY! I DON'T WANT TO T-TALK TO ANYBODY! JUST LEAVE ME ALONE!

AFTER A WHILE I HEARD OUR FRONT DOORBELL BUT I WAS TOO DEEP IN MISERY TO PAY ATTENTION!
STUART, I LOVED YOU SO! I ONLY WANTED TO HOLD YOU FOREVER, BUT INSTEAD I DROVE YOU AWAY!

SUDDENLY...
EDNA, THERE'S A MIGHTY DETERMINED YOUNG MAN DOWNSTAIRS! HE SAYS HE WON'T LEAVE UNTIL YOU TALK TO HIM! I THINK YOU'D BETTER!
STUART! HE CAME HERE TO THE HOUSE!

ALL I CAN SAY IS, MY LITTLE SISTER HAD HER NERVE, HOLDING SOMEONE AS HANDSOME AS YOU A SECRET!
CORA! THIS IS REALLY THE END OF EVERYTHING!

I GOT YOUR HOME ADDRESS FROM YOUR BOSS, EDNA! I HAD TO SEE YOU AGAIN! COME ON OUTSIDE WHERE WE CAN TALK!
Y-YES, STUART! OH, YES...!

YOU'LL EXCUSE US? I HAPPEN TO BE IN LOVE WITH THIS GIRL AND WE HAVE PROBLEMS TO SETTLE!
WELL, MY KID SISTER HAS REALLY GROWN UP!

NOW, YOUNG LADY, I WANT THE TRUTH! DO YOU LOVE ME OR DON'T YOU?
OH, I LOVE YOU WITH ALL MY HEART, DARLING! I TH-THOUGHT I'D LOST YOU FOREVER! BUT I THOUGHT I'D LOSE YOU ANYHOW---

IT'S CORA---I WAS AFRAID SHE'D STEAL YOU FROM ME! SHE'S SO MUCH PRETTIER THAN ME! I LOVED YOU TOO MUCH TO RISK LOSING YOU!
WHY, YOU PRECIOUS LITTLE IDIOT! I OUGHT TO PADDLE YOU GOOD!

YOU'RE ACTUALLY SAYING YOU DIDN'T THINK YOU COULD TRUST ME! NO ONE COULD EVER TURN MY HEAD OR HEART FROM YOU, SILLY!
I'VE BEEN SUCH A F-FOOL, STUART! KISS ME!

WILL YOU MARRY ME QUICK BEFORE YOU GET SOME OTHER CRAZY IDEA ABOUT MY LOVE?
ANYTIME, ANYWHERE, DARLING! MY LOVE IS FOREVER!

HEY, YOU LOVE-BIRDS! WE'RE GOING TO BED! YOU'D BETTER MOVE INTO THE PARLOR BEFORE YOU CATCH COLD! I'D HATE TO HAVE A NEW BROTHER-IN-LAW WITH THE SNIFFLES AT HIS WEDDING!

Reducing Specialist Says: LOSE WEIGHT Where It Shows Most

REDUCE MOST ANY PART OF THE BODY WITH

Spot Reducer

Relaxing · Soothing Penetrating Massage

Connie Simmons, New York City, N. Y., says: "I went from size 16 dress to a size 12 with the use of the Spot Reducer. I am glad I used it."

Like a magic wand, the "Spot Reducer" obeys your every wish. Most any part of your body where it is loose and flabby, wherever you have extra weight and inches, the "Spot Reducer" can aid you in acquiring a youthful, slender and graceful figure. The beauty of this scientifically designed Reducer is that the method is so simple and easy, the results quick, sure and harmless. No exercises or strict diets. No steambaths, drugs or laxatives.

Thousands have lost weight this way—in hips, abdomen, legs, arms, etc. The same method used by many stage, screen and radio personalities and leading reducing salons. The "Spot Reducer" can be used in your spare time, in the privacy of your own room. It is Underwriters Laboratory Approved! Two weeks after using the "Spot Reducer," look in the mirror and see a more glamorous, better, firmer, slimmer figure that will delight you. You have nothing to lose but weight for the "Spot Reducer" is sold on a

MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

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Take pounds off—keep slim and trim with Spot Reducer! Remarkable new invention which uses one of the most effective reducing methods employed by masseurs and turkish baths—MASSAGE!

ONLY $2.00 FULL PRICE

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FREE A large size jar of Special Formula Body Massage Cream will be included FREE with your order for the "Spot Reducer."

If the "Spot Reducer" doesn't do the wonders for you as it has for others, if you don't lose weight and inches where you want to lose it most, if you're not 100% delighted with the results, your money will be returned at once.

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Send me at once, for $2 cash, check or money order, the "Spot Reducer" and your famous Special Formula Body Massage Cream, postpaid. If I am not 100% satisfied, my money will be refunded.

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MUSCULAR ACHES: A handy helper for transient relief of discomforts that can be aided by gentle, relaxing massage.

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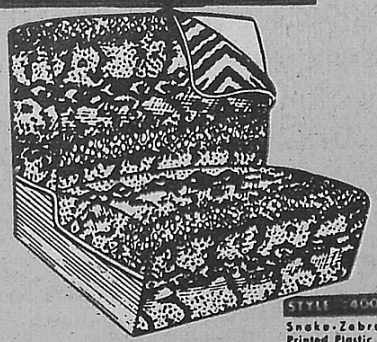
Zebra-Snake Design

REVERSIBLE AUTO SEAT COVERS

MADE OF FLEXTON — SERVICE GAUGE PLASTIC FOR LONG WEAR



• Waterproof. Easy to attach to seats for good fit. Roomy and neat. Elastic shirring and reinforced overlap side grips insure over-all seat coverage. Will dress up your car's interior and give protection to seat upholstery. Whisk off mud, oil, sand, grime with a damp rag for bright as new appearance. Sewn with nylon thread for long wear and durability.

ORDER FROM MANUFACTURER AND SAVE!

Choice of split or front seat styles only $2.98 each. Complete set for Front & Rear only $5.00. Specify make of car and seat style with each order. Save Money and buy a set today.

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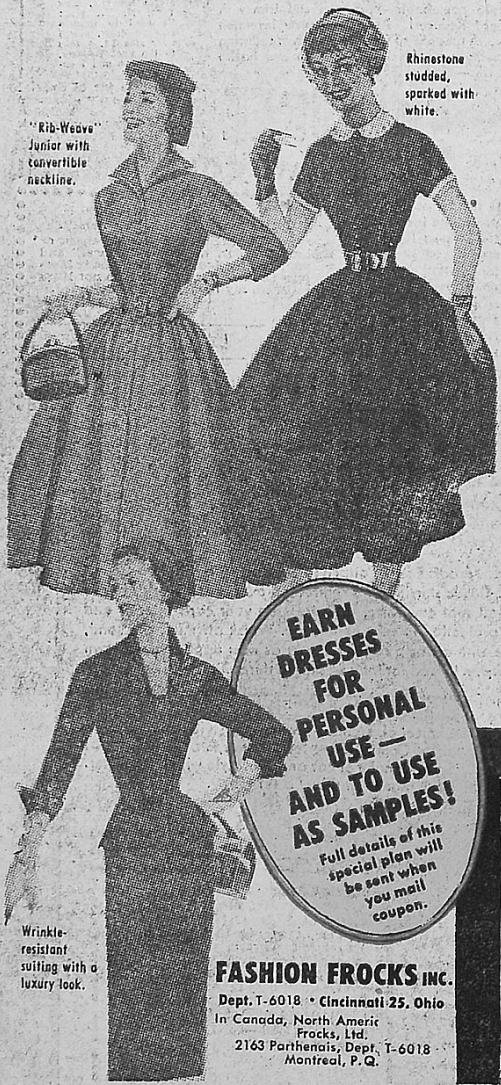
WOMEN!

IF YOU NEED MONEY



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UNBREAKABLE PLASTIC

including a Gorgeous Trousseau of

7 COMPLETE OUTFITS

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